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Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 01630 141555Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 IO-13 DLOS-06
SAL-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 L-03 /082 W
---------- 124310 /42
R 141008Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6861
INFO COMICEDEFOR
CINCLANT
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USEC BRUSSELS 0417

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1630

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, IC, EEC
SUBJECT: GOI ON DEFENSIVE OVER REPORTED TERMS OF FISHERIES
PACT WITH EEC

REF: REYKJAVIK 1624

1. SPECULATION ATTRIBUTED TO EEC OFFICIALS IN BRUSSELS
THAT 12 BRITISH TRAWLERS MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO ICE-
LAND'S WATERS AFTER FIRST OF YEAR (REFTEL) CAUSED MINOR
FUROR HERE OVER WEEKEND. THOUGH MATTER HAS NOW PRESUMABLY
BEEN PUT TO REST, IT REVEALED AGAIN ACUTE LOCAL SENSITIVI-
TIES AND POLITICAL EXPLOSIVENESS OF THIS ISSUE.

2. SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE RETURN OF BRITISH TRAWLERS TO
ICELANDIC WATERS DOMINATED SATURDAY AND SUNDAY PAPERS AND
OCCASIONED UNSCHEDULED ALTHING DEBATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON.
PRIMEMIN AND FONMIN STRONGLY DENIED THAT GOI HAD MADE ANY
COMMITMENTS REGARDING RECIPROCAL FISHING RIGHTS THAT
COULD GIVE COMMUNITY SPOKESMEN BASIS FOR PROJECTING
TERMS OF POSSIBLE ACCORD. SUBSEQUENT REPORT TO
EFFECT THAT LLEGED SPECULATION WAS RESULT SOLELY OF
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INACCURATE VERSION OF PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS BY

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EEC COMMISSIONER FINN OLAV GUNDELACH WAS PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN COALITION PARTY PRESS. ON OTHER HAND, PEOPLES ALLIANCE DAILY THJODVILJINN, WHICH HAD INTERPRETED ORIGINAL SPECULATION AS EVIDENCE OF GOI PERFIDY, CONTINUED PUSHING THIS THEME DESPITE CLARIFICATIONS BY GUNDALECH AND GOI OFFICIALS. EVEN COLUMNIST IN INDEPENDENCE PARTY-AFFILIATED VISIR HINTED AT POSSIBLE SECRET DEAL WHILE CHIDING GOI FOR ALLEGED LACK OF CANDOR IN COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH EEC.

3. IN ALTHING DEBATE (WHICH OCCURRED BEFORE GUNDALECH'S EXPLANATION RECEIVED HERE) PRIMEMIN HALLGRIMSSON RESPONDED TO OPPOSITION MPS' DEMANDS FOR CLARIFICATION BY STRESSING THAT WHILE IT WAS GOI'S POLICY TO LISTEN TO ANY PROPOSALS EEC MIGHT MAKE, NO ADVANCE COMMITMENT HAD BEEN GIVEN. PRIMEMIN ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ICELAND AND EEC WOULD TAKE PLACE IN BRUSSELS DECEMBER 16-17. GOI NEGOTIATORS WILL BE HEADED BY ICELAND'S AMBASSADOR TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES TOMASSON.
BLAKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Remarks:
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